

**KOGELBERG  
Branch of the Botanical Society of SA**

**Newsletter:  
December 2013**

News Editors: Ed & Merran Silberbauer

*Season's greetings to all.*

**THE BATTLE OF BETTY'S BAY  
ROUND 609**

The next attack takes place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, from 9am to noon  
**VENUE:** between Clode and Four Streams roads, access via Kreupel Hout.  
(enemy: young myrtles)

**TALKS**

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER IN THE MORNING AT 10A.M.** In the Nivenia Hall. **The Cape Leopard Trust, Boland project.** After a general explanation of the work of the trust, Jeannie Hayward & Anita Meyer will present an illustrated talk with emphasis on the leopards in our area. **The voluntary collection will be in aid of the Harold Porter Gardens Restoration Fund.** Please give generously. If you cannot attend the talk banking details are below in Jane Forrester's account of the damage.

**January 2014.** The talk will **NOT** be on a Saturday, instead on **THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY** Hilary Guise will talk on "**Flowers in the art of the Great Masters**". Hilary is an artist, and art historian from London who will be in South Africa to lecture at UCT's Summer School on Chagall and the Sign of the Fish. Hilary will waive her usual fee in favour of donations being given to support the Harold Porter Gardens. Hilary remembers with joy her childhood years in Betty's Bay with her mother, Hope Denoon who had a house in Lipkin Road.

Please see the posters for any possible change of venue for the talks or contact Merrilee 028 272 9314.

**WALK**

There will be no walk in December.

**HAROLD PORTER GARDENS AFTER THE FLOOD OF NOVEMBER 16TH.**

General restoration is going pretty well in the Garden and visitors are allowed in again, but with some no-go areas. These are parts of Disa Kloof which, because of some

pretty bad damage which will need to be fixed by contractors as it involves the approaches to the bridges being completely washed out or badly undercut plus some other damage. The Bobbejaanskop Bridge near the toilets cannot be crossed as there is a gaping hole under the approach and the cement slab is hanging in the air. The approach to the Disa Kloof River Bridge (Zigzag Bridge) has been badly undercut and the paving slab cracked. One of the bridge supports on the far side is also cracked and unsafe. One cannot therefore cross this bridge either and this means that the waterfall is out of bounds.

The corner before the Boekenhout bridge, where the railing is, has had the river bank washed out even more than in the last flood and the path will need to be shifted further away from the bank and rebricked. In the Garden itself we have some very large dongas to fill and will need lots of soil and gravel to do this. Some of the underground automatic irrigation has also been damaged and will need to be fixed before we can use the system again. Areas in the forest are also out of bounds as part of the paved path has been washed away, leaving large dongas.

The zigzag path up the mountain is negotiable as is Leopard's kloof, however We ask everyone to take great care and not to cross any of the barriers.

There has been an amazing response for sponsoring labour and Bernard Heydendrich of Naturesscapes Landscaping has been fantastic in getting the labour and transporting them and also providing some of his permanent staff to act as foreman for the casuals.

A series of posters showing the damage has been put up at the entrance to give a better idea of the damage before repairs were undertaken.

Even though the Garden is not fully restored the Carols on 22 December and the Concerts on 28 Dec and 4 Jan will go ahead.

Donations will be very gratefully received and should be clearly marked  
**"HAROLD PORTER NBG FLOOD".**

The banking account details are:

SANBI,  
Nedbank Claremont,  
Acc Number 1046-361-635,  
Branch Number 104-609.

Jane Forrester.

### **REPORT ON HACK NO 608**

The usual December roaring South Easter with large and small rooikrans hiding amongst the almost impenetrable Leucadendons. I was among the walking wounded and thus unperturbed by the horrors of bundu-bashing but I do feel that that area should undergo a control burn before we venture in again with our weapons of mass

destruction. The welcome tea break saw many of the troops scratched, bleeding and poeg-eyed gasping for a cuppa char and the life saving sandwich. The troops had literally been in the wars. Hacking was not meant to be easy – it was not meant to be that difficult either- but it was. John Benn came under enemy fire and received a nasty wound in the leg. This was rapidly stitched and wrapped up by the resident M.O. And all is well.

And so it is that as the troops suffer a bit of wear and tear, so too does the equipment and in this regard the Hack Group owes the Kogelberg branch of BOTSOC a large debt of thanks for their donation to us from funds collected via the Andrew Schofield Fund Raiser organised by Judy New. This money will go a long way towards keeping the chain saws, snicker snees and hand saws bright and sharp.

Out in the field were:- David Bossenger, Tom Dreyer, John & Andrea Benn, Maarten & Hilary Mauve with visitors John & Rosalind Spiers, John Whitehead, John McNaught Davis, Peter & Merrilee Berrisford, Frik Potgieter, Pieter de Waal, Barbara Jenman, Jan Joubert, Lewis Caroline & James Silberbauer. Louise Digby made the sandwiches and Hilary Butler, visiting from Canada, assisted Merran Silberbauer (wounded) make the tea. Robin Butler acted as chauffeur.

The Office Party was a great success- the braai area is well sheltered from the S.E. Another fitting end to a year of hard and dedicated work by the best team of noxious weed eradicators in the world. To cap it all the fynbos looks GOOD. Seasons greetings to one and all.

Ed Silberbauer, Convenor.

### **PRINGLE BAY HACK NO 90**

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013 the Hack Group concentrated on Australian Myrtle growing on a property on Edward Road. Approximately half of the property was cleared but there is still much work to be done.

The hackers present were Frik Potgieter, Natalie and Daniel Swartling with Sven, Jeff Goy, Ian Cushny, Rinie Schenk, Penny and Neil Berens, Tom Dreyer, Carol Wilson, Andy James, Ivan and Ria Staegmann and John Whitehead. The mid-morning coffee and sandwiches were provided by Ian and Marion Cushny.

**There will not be a hack in December. The next hack will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

As usual we will meet on the pavement opposite Drosters Centre, in Central Avenue, Pringle Bay, at 08:30 and will then proceed to the hack site. Everyone who would like to help rid Pringle Bay of alien vegetation will be welcome. The hack stops at 11:30. Hacking tools are provided. Contact John at (028) 273 8807 or Ian at (028) 273 8589, or just turn up at the meeting point.

John Whitehead, Convenor.

## **SNAKES ALIVE!**

Following the informative and entertaining presentation on snakes at one of our monthly meetings in 2012, it was decided to sponsor a similar talk for the Mooiuitsig community. Motivation came from the fact that a child from Pikkewyntjies pre-primary school was bitten by a snake last year and had to be airlifted to the Red Cross Children's Hospital. Thanks to additional funds collected at subsequent talks, Francois Van Zyl from Pringle Bay gave his presentation to a packed community hall on Tuesday 3 December. This must have been one of the most raucous shows Francois has ever given, with his interactive style which got his audience involved. It will have made an impact on young and old alike, who were helped to identify the dangerous and less dangerous snakes found in the area, to touch some of the latter, to learn what to do in case of emergency and, most importantly, to appreciate the part that snakes play in the environment, which means that they should not be killed. The last snake presented, a large three-year-old python which was duly draped around the necks of the more intrepid in the audience, proved a fitting climax.

Sue Folb.

### **RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES**

<b>Month</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Rainfall mm		35,5	238,1
Temp, °C	Max	34	35
	Min	7	11

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ AND/ OR STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP**

If you change your address, wish to resign or change your status, please notify the Botanical Society Head Office on 021- 797 2090, as they print the labels and keep the records. We do only the newsletter, e-mails and posting. To receive this newsletter via e-mail (and save the Branch the costs of printing, packaging and postage) send your address to [merran@telkomsa.net](mailto:merran@telkomsa.net)

### **REMEMBER YOUR ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

**The editors reserve the right to edit contributions.**

**Deadline for the next newsletter is Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014.** Please note that the deadline is now the Tuesday after the Bettys' Bay hack.

Please address all mail to : Kogelberg Branch of the Botanical Society of SA, P.O. Box 93, Betty's Bay 7141. E-mail : [merran@telkomsa.net](mailto:merran@telkomsa.net) no graphics please.